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1793. *Dec.* 20. (Patterson in the Chair ; Barton, Wistar, Peale, Legaux, Dr. Nassy, and Dr. Thornton.)

Adjudication of premiums “necessarily postponed till the time of the next annual adjudication.”

1794. *Jan.* 3. (Thornton, B. S. Barton, Davidson, Judges ; Nassy, Vaughan, Clerks ; Rittenhouse, Legeaux, Dr. Smith, Patterson, Davidson, Magaw, Duffield, Wistar, Williams, W. Barton.)

“Mr. W. Barton resigned his place as Counsellor.”

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

*President*—Rittenhouse.

*Vice-Presidents*—Jefferson, Ewing, W. Smith.

*Treasurer*—Vaughan.

*Curators*—B. S. Barton, C. Wistar, C. W. Peale.

*Counsellors*—Jon. Williams, J. Andrews, D.D., And. Elliott, S. P. Griffiths, M.D., Jas. Davidson, in place of W. Barton.

*Secretaries*—Nich. Collin, D.D., W. Barton, R. Patterson, S. Magaw, D.D.

“Immediately after the election, the Society proceeded to other business, Mr. Jas. Davidson in the Chair.”

Patterson and Williams, Auditing Committee.

“*Resolved*, That in the Election of New Members, no person shall be balloted for, unless one of the members who proposed him be present ; except the contrary shall be determined by a previous Vote of the Society ; & that the Election shall be kept open ; & the State of the Ballots not declared, till the Society are about to adjourn in the evening of said Election.”\*

Proposition to fine resident members twenty-five cents for non-attendance.

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\*This explains the curious present practice of leaving the ballot-box standing unexamined until after “New Business” has been disposed of.

1794. *Jan'y* 17. (Ruston in the Chair; Thornton, Barton, Duffield, Legeaux, Nassey [*sic*], Bleakley, Collin, Wistar, Patterson.)

1794. *Feb'y* 7. (Peale, Thornton, Wistar, Bleakley, Collin, Barton, Magaw, Patterson.)

"During the late disasters" at Cape François, Dr. Valentin's certificate of membership having been destroyed, his request for another was granted.

Collin, Williams, W. Barton, Patterson, "a Committee to devise & report such measures as may tend more effectually to promote the general objects of the Society."

"A renewal of their Lease of that part of the Hall occupied by them," was applied for by Mr. Bleakley from the Trustees of the University. Vaughan, Thornton and Peale, a Committee of Conference.

1794. *Feb'y* 21. (Thornton in the Chair; Barton, Nassey, Collin, Patterson, Peale, W. Barton, Williams, Nicholson, Magaw.)

Citizen Gennet's [*sic*] letter to the President with a French pamphlet (and translation) respecting a reform of the French calendar [*sic*] was received and read.

Also a letter from Judge Turner of the Western Territory.

Dr. Nassey's discourse in French on "Whether the learned researches of modern botanists have been more useful than those of the ancients" was referred to a Committee.

Three copies of a discourse lately delivered before the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania were presented by Dr. Magaw.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to promote the general welfare of the Society . . . reported:

"1. That the book containing the act of incorporation . . . be sent round to all the resident members" for missing signatures "so that the Society may be able to ascertain who their actual resident members are.

"2. That a circular letter be sent to the several resident members, pointing out the present languishing state of the Society and soliciting their respective exertions to revive the same;" punctual attendance at meetings; "and from time to time, to favour the Society with such essays or observations as they may judge conducive to the laudable purpose of our Institution—the promoting of useful Knowledge."

"That a circular letter be also sent to all the distant members . . . in the U. S., requesting them to communicate from time to time whatever they may judge worthy of notice, relating either to science in general, or to the natural history, state of arts and manufactures, or agriculture, in our country in particular."

"4. That the advertising Secretary be directed to send to each of the resident members the day before every stated meeting a notification of the same, as well as to advertise it in two or more of the public papers."

"5. That the recording secretary provide a book . . . of resident members . . . & insert in the proper column the letter *p* (present) opposite the name of every member present . . ."

6. After absence from meetings without excuse for one year "the advertising secretary shall not any longer take the trouble of sending him the usual notice . . ."

7. The Counsellors & Officers shall hold stated meetings on the fourth Fridays of Jan. Feb. March, April, May, Oct. Nov. & Dec. "& occasional meetings . . . as they shall think proper."

8. At the meetings of the officers appointed or invited members may assist.

9. All communications "shall be immediately referred . . ."

1794. *March* 7. (Ruston in the Chair; Legeaux, Collin, White, Barton, Peale, Vaughan, Patterson.)

Picart's History of Religious Ceremonies, 6 Vols. F.; Swammerdam's History of Insects, 1 Vol. F.; Raleigh's History of the World, 1 Vol. F, were presented by J. Vaughan.

Collin's "plan of a Botanical Garden & the relative improvement of the Museum" was read.

The Committee on the renewal of the Lease to the Trustees of the University, reported:

"*Resolved* that the University may have their lease renewed for . . . 5 years, upon fully releasing the Society from a Bond for £500 due to Rich. Bache as Legatee to Dr. Franklin, on which interest is paid to 20<sup>th</sup> Feby last—Or, upon paying . . . quarterly . . . £130 per annum."

Committee on Circular Letters agreeably to resolutions of last meeting: W. Barton and Dr. Barton.\*

1794. *March* 21. (Wistar, Chairman; Barton, Peale, W. Barton, Collin, Vaughan.)

Janitor's account, £6 · 9 · 4 reapproved. John C. Rediger appointed Janitor in the room of his late father, deceased.

Books: Hist. Ecc. Gen. Angl. 1 Vol. F.; Opus. omn. act. Erud. Lip. Vols. I, III, IV, 4<sup>o</sup>; Solomon Van Til, Theo Dord. 1 Vol. 4<sup>o</sup>.

An account from the estate of T. Clifford, "£34 · 8 · 3 principal & £19 · 8 · 8 int. was referred to the Treasurer."

Dr. Collin reported that Dr. Nassey's paper should be translated.

1794. *April* 4. (12 present.)

"A new and accurate method of calculating the excentric anomaly of the planets," by Mr. Ellicott, was read.

"On the facinating [*sic*] faculty of the Rattlesnake & other Serpents" by Dr. Barton, was read.

Janitor's account, £6 · 12 · 10½, "having been examined by the treasurer" was ordered to be paid.

1794. *April* 18. (Rittenhouse; Beauvais, J. B. Smith and 14 others.)

"An easy accurate method of adjusting the back horizon glass of Hadley's Sector, practicable on land & applicable to the common octant" by Mr. Patterson, was read.

Election of seven new members: Th. Mann Randolph, of Monticello, Virginia; Jas. Anderson, LL.D., of Cotfield, Scotland; the Earl of Buchan, P. S. S. A., of Scotland; Dr. Jas. Greenway, of Dinwiddie County, Virginia; Ed. Stevens, M.D., F. R. S. Edin., of St. Croix; John Nancarrow, of Philadelphia; Eberhard Aug. Wm. Zimmerman, Professor

\* The above minutes were omitted in their proper place and entered after the minutes of April 18.

Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Natural History in the Caroline College of Brunswick.

1794. *May* 2. (Ellicott in the Chair; Nancarrow, Vaughan, Currie, Peale, W. Barton, Thornton, Stevens, Wistar.)

Books: Ebeling's Geog. U. S. Vol. I, with a letter; Belknap's Amer. Biog. Vol. I; two treatises by Dr. Currie, and Mat. Carey's "Short account of the late malignant fever in Philad<sup>a</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Edition."

1794. *May* 16. (Duffield, and 6 others.)

Prize medals to R. Patterson and W. Thornton, cost £37 .. 8 .. 7; ordered to be paid.

Book presented: Hist. des Celts. 8 Vols. 8°. Mr. Peale proposed to rent the unappropriated parts of the Hall, as a place of deposit for his Museum. Committee on the proposal: Nicholson, Collin, Patterson.

1794. *May* 30. By *Special Notice*. (Kuhn, Ruston, Collin, Duffield, Currie, Andrews, Parke, Wistar, Matlack, Nicholson, Patterson, Vaughan, Bleakley, Barton, Magaw, Pearson, Hill, Kittera, Peale, Duponceau, Blackwell, J. B. Smith, White, Ewing.)

"Sundry Asiatic plants," sent by W. Roxburgh, Botanist to the English East India Company, at Calcutta (with a letter to J. Vaughan), and deposited with Mr. Hamilton of the Woodlands, who receipted for them, and engaged to deliver them to order on demand. Approved.

"A collection of shells" with a letter from Judge Turner, of Cincinnati [*sic*].

Museum Committee reported a conference with Mr. Peale, and a mature consideration of the subject. They had "contemplated the terms by which they held from the Commonwealth and are restricted from leasing or occupying

such parts as are not necessary to the Society, except to certain public uses, in which the present proposed object is fully included."

Mr. Peale desires to lease "all the parts of the house except that room in which the Society meet and the one directly east of it on the same floor." The cellars are under an unexpired lease, but the lessee will accommodate him there.

"Your Committee need not represent the advantages to be expected and derived from Mr. Peale's Museum when they consider the affinity it hath with the objects which engage the views of this Society."

"Under these impressions, and also with a view to promote the funds of this society, your Committee have unanimously agreed to recommend to the Society the following Resolves, viz.:

1. To lease to C. W. Peale for 10 years, all except the S. W. & S. E. corner rooms on the second story, from the time of taking possession.

2. At £130, in two equal half yearly payments, less the cellar rent.

3. Mr. Peale shall moreover "do, or cause to be done . . . the following services viz."—Act as Librarian.—Act as depository of models, drawings, plans, curiosities, &c., preserve & exhibit them, under the direction of the Curators.—Keep the Society's reserved rooms neat and clean, and open them on occasion for meetings & committees, with fires, the fuel to be furnished at the expense of the Society.

4. "Mr. Peale shall be allowed to finish the plaistering [*sic*] & other necessary work in" the S. W. room, first floor, & N. W. room second floor, "in a neat & plain manner" under the direction of a committee; the expense to be deducted from the rent.

5. Mr. Peale shall remove all temporary partitions &c, & deliver up the building in good order, "accidents by fire & reasonable wear excepted."

6. Proviso to be inserted:—in case of sale or disposal of, or removal of the Museum, the lease to be vacated.

7. Committee to prepare a lease:—Kittera, Duponceau, Mr. Barton.

Committee to procure the insurance of the Society's Hall: Vaughan & Barton.

1794. June 20. (Rittenhouse and 21 others.)

Committee's draft of lease read and agreed to, and the Committee appointed to have the same duly executed.

Congratulatory address to Dr. Priestley. Rittenhouse, Mr. Barton, Thornton, Bleakley, Duponceau, Williams, a Committee to draft it. This Committee reported a draft;\* it was read and adopted "and the Officers of the Society with as many of the other members as can conveniently attend are directed to meet at the Hall to-morrow afternoon at one o'clock in order to present the same."

1794. *July* 18. (Ruston; Wistar, Dr. Barton, Vaughan, Peale, Parke, W. Barton, Patterson, Collin.)

Ebell's book on glazing earthen vessels with lead, presented. Dr. Collin requested to read it, and "favour the Society with an analysis thereof & such remarks as he may judge most interesting."

"On the causes of bilious, remittant [*sic*] & yellow fevers" by S. F. Conover, M.D., was read.

"Remarks on the poisonous or injurious honey of N. America," by Dr. Barton, was read.

Dr. Ruston reported that a number of the officers & members of the Society waited on Dr. Priestley, "and presented the address, which, with his answer are as follows"

TO JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, LL.D., &c.

The American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for Promoting Useful Knowledge, offer you their sincere congratulations on your safe arrival in this country. Associated for the purposes of extending and disseminating those improvements in the sciences and the arts, which most conduce to the substantial happiness of man, the Society felicitate themselves and their country, that your talents and virtues have been transferred to this Republic. Considering you as an illustrious member of this institution, your colleagues anticipate your aid, in zealously promoting the objects which unite them; as a virtuous man possessing eminent and useful acquirements, they contemplate with pleasure, the accession of such worth to the American Commonwealth; and looking forward to your future character of a citizen of this your adopted country, they rejoice in greeting, as such, an enlightened Republican.

In this free and happy country, those unalienable rights, which the Author of Nature committed to man as a sacred deposit, have been

\* No doubt written during the meeting.



secured. Here, we have been enabled, under the favour of Divine Providence, to establish a government of laws and not of men ; a government, which secures to its citizens equal rights and equal liberty ; and which offers an asylum to the good, to the persecuted, and to the oppressed of other climes.

May you long enjoy every blessing, which an elevated and highly cultivated mind, a pure conscience, and a free country are capable of bestowing.

By order of the Society,

DAVID RITTENHOUSE Pres.

PHILADA, June 20<sup>th</sup> 1794.

*To the Members of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia.*

GENTLEMEN :—It is with peculiar satisfaction that I receive the congratulations of my brethren of the Philosophical Society in this city, on my arrival in this country. It is, in great part, for the sake of pursuing our common studies without molestation, tho', for the present, you will allow, with far less advantage, that I left my native country, and have come to America ; and a Society of philosophers, who will have no objections to a person on account of his political or religious sentiments, will be as grateful as it will be new to me.

My past conduct, I hope, will show, that you may depend upon my *zeal* in promoting the valuable objects of your institution, but you must not flatter yourselves, or me, with supposing, that, at any time of life, and with the inconvenience attending a new, and uncertain settlement, I can be of much service to it.

I am confident, however, from what I have already seen of the spirit of the people of this country, that it will soon appear that republican governments, in which every obstruction is removed to the exertions of all kinds of talents, will be far more favourable to Science, and the arts, than any monarchical government has ever been. The patronage to be met with there, is ever capricious, and as often employed to bear down merit as to promote it ; having for its real object not science, nor any thing useful to mankind, but the mere reputation of the patron, who is seldom any judge of science. Whereas a *Republic*, which neither flatters, nor is to be flattered, will not fail in due time to distinguish true merit, and to give every encouragement that is proper to be given in the case. Besides, by opening, as you generously do "an asylum to the persecuted and oppressed of all climes", you will in addition to your own native stock, soon receive a large accession of every kind of merit, philosophical not excepted, whereby you will do yourselves great honour, and secure the most permanent advantage to the community.

J. PRIESTLEY.

PHILADA, June 21<sup>st</sup> 1794.

Mr. Barton reported that the lease to Peale had been exe-

cuted, and that the one signed and sealed by Mr. Peale was deposited in the hands of the Treasurer.

1794. Aug. 15. (Duponceau ; Collin, Magaw, Wistar, Nassy [*sic*], Patterson, Peale, Beauvois.)

Committee for finishing the two rooms: Vaughan, Magaw, Patterson.

“Dr. Magaw presented to the Society two copies of a discourse delivered by him, July 17, 1794, in the African Church of the city of Philadelphia, on the occasion of opening the said church, and holding public worship in it the first time.”

Dr. Devize presented three copies of his “Observations on the late Epidemic &c.”

“*Resolved* that Mr. Peale be requested to carry into execution the 1<sup>st</sup> article agreed to by the Society . . . . Feby 21, 1794 . . . . to promote . . more punctual attendance of its members.”

1794. Sep. 19. (Rittenhouse, Andrews, Collin, Peale.)

A brief report on the treatise on Lead glazing was read by Dr. Collin.

[Here in a very remarkable handwriting occurs] “Dr. Rittenhouse presented a work sent by the author Carolus Ludovicus Heritier in France, stiled—*Stirpes Novæ Descriptionibus et Iconibus illustratæ*.”

1794. Oct. 17. (Ruston ; and 12 others.)

“Essay on the formation of hail, by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. James Hall of N. Carolina, was presented by Dr. Green and read.”

1794. Oct. 24. (Rittenhouse ; McKean, Peal [*sic*], Andrews, Magaw.)

Letter of the Minister of France, translated :

“Phil<sup>a</sup> Sep. 15, 1794, Joseph Fauchet, Min. Plen. of the French Republic to the U. S. to Mr. Rittenhouse, President of the A. P. S.

“Sir, A philosopher as estimable for his republican virtues, as for

his knowledge & information acquired by intense studies and laborious travels,\* was charged by the National Convention to present to the government of the U. States, the New System of Weights & Measures adopted by the French Republic. This unfortunate man died in the course of his voyage, at Montserrat.

Your respectable Society will partake of my regret for this irreparable loss; it will lament an affectionate Brother who hoped to present it with the labours of his friends, & to be a witness of those you undertake for the progress of science and the happiness of Mankind. The extract of a letter, which I have inclosed, was found amongst his Papers; It informed me of the intention of Citizen l'Heritier, & I hasten to fulfill it.

I send to you, Sir, the valuable Case intended for your Society. It contains the continuation of a Work, the first part of which was transmitted to you by its author, thro the hands of Dr. Franklin, on his return from Europe. This present will convince you that the sacred fire of Genius is supported in France, with as much attention as that of Liberty; and the natural alliance which exists between the Philosophers of two Countries, is drawn closer by one additional tie. You could not formerly hold a commerce with us, but on Sciences not applicable to social principles; and we remained Infants in a study so important to human felicity; whilst you were already become men. We are now endeavoring to overtake our Friends: and the despotism exercised on the human mind, shall never more shackle our amiable & free communication with men who endeavour as much to soften, as to instruct themselves. Such is the object which the name of your Society announces & which, no doubt, it accomplishes.

"Permit me, Sir, to profit by this occasion, in paying it that tribute of esteem, which every one owes it, who feels himself interested in the progress of the Arts & the happiness of his Fellow creatures.

Signed FAUCHET."

1794. Nov. 7. (Rittenhouse; Joseph Carache† and 11 others.)

"Dr. Collin presented compliments from the Archbishop of Sweden, who in a letter to him has expressed great satisfaction in being elected" &c., &c.

A paper on the improvement of time keepers by Mr. Rittenhouse was read.

Books presented: A systematical treatise of arithmetic, by John Vinall, of Boston, and a concise history of the human Muscles, by Thos. Wright, of Dublin, with letters from the authors.

\* Citizen Dombey, Naturalist.

† Ceracchi, in MS. minutes of Jan. 20, 1792, the date of his election.

1794. *Nov. 21.* (Ruston ; and 7 others.)

A paper on the mode most easily and effectually practicable of drying up the marshes in the maritime parts of North America, by T. Wright, Lic. Coll. Surg. Dublin, was read.

A letter and paper “containing an analytical view of all the late curious & useful discoveries & inventions relating to the arts, made in France since the commencement of the revolution,” from “M. Alex. Lerebours lately from Paris,” was read. “He also laid before the Society for their perusal a number of pamphlets on the same subjects.”

1794. *Dec. 5.* (Ewing, Andrews, McKean, Parke, Magaw, Peale, Dr. Barton, Patterson.)

Act of Incorporation, &c., of the Massachusetts Historical Society from Mr. Hazard.

1794. *Dec. 26.* (Rittenhouse and 14 others.)

Ed. Bancroft’s Experimental Researches concerning the philosophy of permanent colors ; and a Treatise on Magnetism, &c., by Ralph Walker, of Jamaica, presented.

Magellanic Premium. The officers having recommended the Paper on an Elevator (Nititor [*sic*] in ardua virtus) “the votes were taken by ballot on this performance which was crowned with a majority of votes in its favour. The sealed letter containing the author’s name was then opened, when it appeared that Nicholas Collin, of Philadelphia, was the author.”

1795. *Jan’y 2.* (Rittenhouse, Williams, Davidson, Dr. Barton, W. Barton, Vaughan, Peale, Ellicot, Collin and Patterson.)

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

*President*—Rittenhouse.

*Vice-Presidents*—Collin, Ruston, Wistar.

*Secretaries*—Barton (W), Bleakley, Magaw, Patterson.

*Councillors*—Smith (W.), Smith (J. B.), Currie, White.

*Curators*—Barton (B. S.), Parke, Peale.

*Treasurer*—Vaughan.